



DIRECTORATE OF
INTELLIGENCE

Intelligence Memorandum

South Arabia

Secret

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Directorate of Intelligence
24 July 1967

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

South Arabia

Summary

Britain has taken the first step toward forming a representative government to succeed the South Arabian Federation government. On 5 July the Supreme Federal Council, the governing body of the federation, appointed an Adeni moderate, Husayn Bayumi, as prime minister - designate to form a caretaker government until independence, now scheduled for 9 January 1968. According to present plans, elections will then be held and a permanent government established.

vital question, however, is whether it is not already too late to achieve any kind of order out of the present chaos of tribal feuds, ethnic prejudices, social backwardness, and political machinations by other Arab states such as Egypt.

1. Aden is today an armed camp, with assassination and terrorism commonplace. In June there were 445 incidents in Aden alone, compared with 376 in April and a peak figure of 80 per month last fall. Known casualties due to incidents in Aden for the first half of 1967 are 116 killed and 527 wounded.

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] the great majority of casualties have been Arab.

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[REDACTED] Terror and destruction have almost reached the point where Aden will soon have no trade, nor will it have the bankers or traders needed to revive commerce after peace is restored.

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25X6

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25X1

25X1

25X10

25X6

Efforts to Resolve Differences

6. When conditions in South Arabia began to deteriorate swiftly, all parties involved began to search for some compromise solution. Several states tried to intervene and the UN sent missions to assess the situation, all to no avail. With the onset of the Arab-Israeli war, the situation became even more murky. Many South Arabians, believing that Britain and the US were behind Israel's success, were even more antagonistic about negotiating with Britain.

7. On 19 June the British Foreign Secretary announced that independence, long scheduled for the end of 1968, would take place on 9 January 1968. He said that London would increase its commitments of military aid to about \$168 million over a three-year period and would station a naval force for six

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months and a bomber force for perhaps longer to protect South Arabia against "open external aggression." London said it fully supported the present government and welcomed its intention to form a caretaker government "if and when cooperation with others makes this possible." On 5 July Bayumi [redacted]

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[redacted] was appointed prime minister - designate. He announced on 18 July the formation of an eight-man interim administration--five Adenis and three from other states, whose ability and affiliations are not impressive.

8. These actions are remarkable especially because they were carried out during open mutiny by the South Arabian security forces and during the Arab-Israeli war. The real time of testing for the administration is yet to come, however, and numerous problems remain.

Attitudes

9. The blood feuds engendered by the terrorism have built up a residue of bitterness, and there are many scores to settle. With arms readily available, public security will be exceedingly difficult to restore, particularly the stable type which had made Aden almost unique in the Middle East. [redacted]

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disillusionment and apathy have set in, and those who could once have ensured South Arabia's future viability are giving up. The Somalis, Hindus, Jews, and British who built and carried on Aden's trade are leaving, and the present situation does not encourage new investment.

10. Britain's role is a critical factor. London has been trying to encourage those Adenis who might be able to salvage something. The continued recalcitrance of all parties, however, has hampered British efforts to establish a successor government.

At the time of the uprising in the Crater district, there was strong sentiment in Britain for pulling out early. Even if London hangs on until 9 January, as now seems likely, the successor government may well take on an increasingly pro-Nasir tinge. Britain might in that case reconsider contributing \$168 million to arm a pro-Nasir army in South Arabia, whatever commitments may have been made.

11. The lack of British assistance and trade would sharply limit the future of South Arabia. Egypt does not possess the economic strength to fill the vacuum [redacted]

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[redacted] To date no other state has shown any interest in bailing South Arabia out of its political and economic mire, and the UN is unlikely to accept large-scale responsibility there.

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